

About Campaign and Political Finance Reporting

The [laws and rules](#) governing campaign finance are complex. For more detail, please refer to Article XXVIII of the Colorado Constitution, Title 1, Article 45 of the Colorado Revised Statutes and the Secretary of State's Rules Concerning Campaign and Political Finance.

- [Who is required to file disclosure reports?](#)
- [What things are disclosed?](#)
- [Are there limits or prohibitions on contributions or expenditures?](#)

Who is required to file disclosure reports?

- Candidates and committees supporting or opposing candidates seeking nomination or election to public office are required to file disclosure reports.
- Political parties, political committees, and candidate committees who support or oppose candidates that file with the Secretary of State or a county clerk are required to file disclosure reports
- Issue committees who support or oppose ballot questions, issues, or measures that file with the Secretary of State or a county clerk are required to file disclosure reports.
- Political organizations (527s) who seek to influence the selection, nomination, election, or appointment of candidates must file disclosure reports.
- Any person or entity making independent expenditures in excess of \$1000 per calendar year to support or oppose candidates must file disclosure reports with the Secretary of State.

Municipal candidates and committees are also required to file disclosure reports. These reports are not available on the campaign finance database but may be acquired by contacting the applicable [municipal clerk](#).

Candidates for federal office such as President, United States Senator, or United States Congressman file disclosure reports with the [Federal Election Commission](#).

A "candidate" is any person who seeks nomination or election to any state or local public office that is to be voted on in this state at any primary election, general election, school district election, special district election, or municipal election. "Candidate" also includes a judge or justice of any court of record who seeks to be retained in office pursuant to the provisions of section 25 of article VI of the [Colorado Constitution](#). A person is a candidate for election if the person has publicly announced an intention to seek election to public office or retention of a judicial office and thereafter has received a contribution or made an expenditure in support of the candidacy. A person remains a candidates for

the purposes of campaign finance laws as long as a candidate committee is maintained (includes term-limited office holders).

A “committee” is generally a combination of two or more individuals or an organization who contributes money or other items of value to any candidate or political party or who supports or opposes a candidate, ballot issue, ballot question, or measure.

Persons or organizations who distribute advertisements or other material referring to a candidate within 30 days of a primary election or 60 days of a general election are required to file Electioneering Communication reports.

What things are disclosed?

Candidates, committees, and parties are required to disclosure all contributions, both monetary and non-monetary (in-kind), loans, expenditures (including obligations of debt), Electioneering Communications, and contact information.

The name and address of any person contributing twenty dollars (\$20) or more must be disclosed. In addition to name and address, the occupation and employer for persons contributing one hundred dollars (\$100) or more must also be disclosed.

The name, address, and amount of expenditures of twenty dollars (\$20) must be reported.

Are there limits or prohibitions on contributions or expenditures?

The Colorado Constitution sets [contribution limits](#) for political parties, political committees, small donor committees, and state candidate committees. Issue committees do not have contribution limits.

Corporations and labor organizations are prohibited from making contributions to candidate committees or political parties and may not provide funding for Electioneering Communications. Candidate committees, political committees, small donor committees and political parties are prohibited from accepting contributions from foreign persons, corporations or governments.

Some state candidates choose to accept [voluntary spending limits](#) which restrict the amount of money they may expend during an election cycle.